

Romania – Case Study

Screening and Prevention for Viral Hepatitis and HIV

Analysis of the Situation

Resources and Structures Available/Not Available

Resources Available

- National immunization program for newborns for Hepatitis B since 1995
- Vaccines available for Hepatitis B and A
- The possibility of screening for Hepatitis B and C at the family doctor for insured patients since the 1st of May 2018
- Almost all treatments for adults and children with Hepatitis B available
- Treatment program with new DAAs for Hepatitis C for patients with F3-F4
 - Exceptions: F2 with other diseases; medical staff regardless of the stage of the disease
- A package of tests are available at hospitals for patients identified through the screening program

Resources Available

- Viral Hepatitis can be treated by two medical specialties: infectious diseases specialist and gastroenterologist
- A HIV National Program
 - The HIV treatment is available to all patients, regardless of their health insurance status

Challenges

Main Obstacles and Barriers

Challenges

- Discontinuities in the availability of the hepatitis B vaccine for the newborns and adults in the last year
- Lack of recommendations regarding the measurement of the immune response after the hepatitis B vaccination
- Anti-vaccination trend
- Lack of national information campaigns on viral hepatitis and HIV coordinated and financed by the Ministry of Health
- No programs available for hepatitis B vaccination for high risk populations (contacts, IDU, institutionalized persons, PLWHA, etc)

Challenges

- Limited options to free screening and treatment for hepatitis B and C for patients without health insurance
- Limited treatment options for children living with hepatitis B
- Unclear legislation on initial and periodical medical evaluation of working people
 - Can lead to stigma and discrimination for people living with viral hepatitis and HIV
- No national register on viral hepatitis
 - Only local registers not linked at national level

Challenges

- Legislation on acquisitions takes a long period of time to be implemented
 - Can cause treatment and monitoring interruptions; low adherence; late diagnosis
- Lack of human and financial resources, medical devices and accessories

Action Plans

Possible Solutions

Possible Solutions

- Active promotion of hepatitis A and B vaccination
- Ensuring access to treatment for hepatitis B and C for patients without medical insurance (including high risk groups)
- Updated legislation on acquisitions and medical evaluations for working people
- National register on hepatitis B and C
 - Already available registers can be used
- National health recommendations to be backed up by available financial resources
 - For prevention campaigns, medical equipment, monitoring, etc

Possible Solutions

- Recommendations for HIV testing for general population
 - At various periods of time
 - Facilitate early HIV diagnostic